



WOMEN IN FAMILY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Family resource management considers the consumption of resources and the availability/ expenditure of human resources by the family members. Women play an important role in management of family resources. The paper is mostly based on the secondary source; published and unpublished data. This paper attempts to review the different studies conducted on the various aspects of women in family resource management in India as well as in other parts of the world. From the literature reviewed, it can be concluded that studies on valuation of household work were limited. Women participate in different household chores; care of family members; rearing animals and all agricultural works. The outlay sustained in undertaking the household works is mainly of unpaid in nature.

KEYWORDS: Women, Management, Resource, Household, Family.

1. INTRODUCTION:

According to Hart (1998) a literature review can be defined as the selection of available documents both published and unpublished on topics which contains information, ideas, data and evidence written on certain views on the nature of the topic and how it is investigated and the effective evaluation of the documents on the research that has been proposed (cited in Ridley, 2012). Literature review summarizes and evaluates the existing knowledge on a particular topic. Family resource management considers the consumption of resources and the availability/ expenditure of human resources by the family members. Women as homemaker play a significant role to manage the family. Work refers to the participation of individuals in productive activities for which they either receive remuneration (in cash or in kind) for their participation or are unpaid because they are contributors to a family business enterprise.

2. METHODOLOGY:

The paper is based on the secondary source from various published and unpublished data such as books and journals. The researcher reviewed books and journals from different libraries. The paper tries to examine the literature of different studies conducted in the management of family resource by women.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

An attempt has been made to in this paper to review the relevant writings of various studies conducted on women family resource management in India.

Sharma and Singh (1970) studied the participation of women in decision making process in Madhya Pradesh and according to their assessment majority of the women participated in decision making in farm activities like seed storage (76%), winnowing (75%), rearing of animals (74%), harvesting (71%) and weeding (66%).

Chakravorty (1975) in his study on women power in agricultural development showed 50 to 60 per cent involvement of rural women in farm operations. Further, the study revealed that except in ploughing, cart driving, arranging farm inputs and selling of farm products, women conducted all other farm operations.

According to Ali (1980) women in Bangladesh plays an important role in agricultural activities, like processing, threshing, drying, winnowing, storage, etc. besides growing of fruits and vegetables, livestock and poultry were also reared by the women.

Devdas (1982) in his study discussed the role of women in modern agriculture and he reported that women shared a number of farm operation with men. He also mentioned that farm women are entirely responsible for feeding the cattle, looking after the milch animal and poultry keeping.

A study conducted by Pradhan (1983) in Nepal entitled the role of women in household production systems and rice farming showed that in farm production women contribute 52 per cent as compared to 48 per cent by men.

Similarly, Rahman (1985) reported in his proceedings of a national seminar on integration of women in development in Bangladesh that women performed lots of economic activities along with their domestic chores. Women performed all post-harvest work like threshing, winnowing, parboiling, soaking as well as livestock and poultry rearing and kitchen gardening. The rate of women participation

in agriculture is somewhat near to the male.

On the basis of the case study Abidi (1986) reported that women weaver's of eastern Uttar Pradesh were very much overloaded with work and hardly get time for rest, leisure and recreation. The women along perform the activities related to child care, household work and animal husbandry.

Ajore (1987) conducted a survey on the role of women in hill agriculture in the central Himalayas and found that there is a traditional division of labour between men and women. The study revealed that women worked for 12 to 16 hrs per day in agriculture, animal husbandry, fetching of fuel and fodder and also in household chores.

In a study in Bangladesh by Sattar and Begum (1988) on the impact of agricultural development programmes on rural women mentioned that women play a prominent role in decision making in certain aspects of agricultural operations and activities.

Singharoy (1989) from his study conducted in Hoogli district of south Bengal on imbalanced economic development, politicization and role difference of female agricultural workers revealed that 12-52 per cent of the agricultural labours were females.

Khan and Harod (1991) studied participation of women in decision related to agriculture operation and observed that apart from carrying out several agricultural activities women in Maharashtra carried out weeding alone. Another study on women participation in agriculture in the same state conducted by Patil (1991) stated that the women contributed more than men in farming operations.

In another study Tantry (1991) reported that women participated in all the agricultural activities except ploughing of fields and marketing of produce. But maximum participation was found in harvesting and picking (100%), manuring fields (98.34%), transplanting of seedlings (95%) and storage of produce (91.6%).

Tripathi and Kunzru (1992) carried out a study in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh and indicated that milk productivity of dairy animals increased with the increase in the level of aspiration of rural women and their proneness to adopt new innovations for productivity augmentation.

Choudhury and Gonarkar (1992) studied about the involvement of farm women in agricultural activities in Fetri village, Nagpur. They found that stable collection (87%) and application of manures (66%) were the major activities of farm women. It was also observed that the women were involved in cleaning of boundaries; land levelling, selection and treatment of seeds, sowing, weeding, drying and cleaning of grains. Besides this the women perform the primary activities of home management like cleaning of household, cleaning of utensils, washing cloth, collection of firewood, etc.

Das (1995) in his study found that women were highly involved in harvesting, transplanting, seed treatment, storage and intercultural activities. The women participated in transplanting of seedlings (83%), application of manure (95%) and 96 per cent in harvesting and threshing of crops.

Roy (1997) in her study on status of women in Khurda districts of Orissa revealed

that rural women played a significant role in all daily household and agricultural activities. The women were also engaged in their own fields by doing agricultural activities uprooting and seeding (30.48%), transplanting (15.85%), weeding (12.19%), harvesting (35.36%), carrying the harvest (18.29%), husking and threshing (47.56%), rearing and feeding cattle (71.95%) and in keeping poultry birds (20.73%).

Baker (1997) classified the household work as activities that have both direct and indirect economic value. By direct economic value he means benefits one gets from doing certain work/something like relaxation, enjoyment, experience, pride and so on. Indirect economic value is based on what has been done such as cooked meal, cleaned floor, washed clothes, etc.

Mathur (1999) in her study found that the women are observed into two types based on their decision to work. Firstly there are women who are willing to work and incline to combine work and domestic working roles for economic and personal reasons. Secondly there are women who are forced to work against their will because of economic needs

Pandey and Devi (2000) showed that women participated in the activities such as feeding the domestic animals, watering, cleaning of shed, taking care of animals, care of new born calves, care of pregnant animal. Their study further stated that their involvement was low in breeding activities sale and purchase of livestock.

Cherain and Vat (2001) conducted a survey in Bhabeer and Tarai Zone of Uttar Pradesh on decision making pattern of rural women and reported that the women usually made decision with male regarding homestead, farm and animal husbandry.

Thejaswini, et al. (2004) reported that majority of the rural women in Mysore district of Karnataka participated in harvesting (97.5%), transplanting of seedlings (90%), manuring of fields (87.5%), winnowing and cleaning (86%), threshing (78.7%), transportation and storage of the produce (77.5%) and field preparation (75%). Besides this the women also perform income generating activities like initial arrangements (91%), attending meetings (80%), collection of raw materials (78%), transportation (72%), encouragement of group members (74%) and in mobilizing fund from other sources (54%).

4. CONCLUSION:

From the literature reviewed, it can be concluded that studies on valuation of household work were limited. Women participated in decision making in farm activities like seed storage, winnowing, rearing of animals, harvesting and weeding. Meal preparation consumed maximum time, followed by household cleaning, care of family members and care of animals. The study revealed that except in ploughing, cart driving, arranging farm inputs and selling of farm products, women conducted all other farm operations. Besides growing of fruits and vegetables, livestock and poultry were also reared by the women. Women play an important role in kitchen gardening and poultry keeping. Women performed all post-harvest work like threshing, winnowing, parboiling, soaking as well as livestock and poultry rearing and kitchen gardening. The women spent minimum leisure time for themselves. The outlay sustain in undertaking the household work is of unpaid in nature.

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